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Confirmed: Birmingham 2022 will be first major multi-sport event to award more medals to women than men

- *Publication of Birmingham 2022 medal event programme confirms there are 136 medal events for women and 134 for men;*
- *Biggest ever integrated para sport programme also confirmed;*
- *A record number of mixed events including diving, swimming relays and para-athletics relays.*
- *Milestone marked by day of talks featuring Lady Mary Peters, Katharine Merry, Hannah Cockroft MBE, and many more female athletes.*

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will make global sport history by becoming the first ever major multi-sport event to award more medals to women than men.

The medal event programme, published today, confirms there will be 136 medal events for women and 134 for men. This will see the Birmingham 2022 Games go one step further than the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018, when there were an equal number of medals for women and men.

Birmingham 2022's sports programme includes T20 cricket for women for the first time at a Commonwealth Games, with eight teams competing at the internationally renowned Edgbaston Stadium.

There will be 13 mixed events, more than ever before, including synchronised 3m springboard diving and synchronised 10m platform diving, swimming relays, and para athletics relays.

10km race walks for men and women, which will take place on the track at the redeveloped Alexander Stadium, have also been added to the athletics programme. This will give athletes like Team England's Tom Bosworth, who won silver in the 20km road version of the event at the Gold Coast 2018 Games and World Junior 10km race walking champion, Callum Wilkinson, the chance to compete at more than one major championships in the summer of 2022.

The Games will also feature more para sport than any previous Commonwealth Games, with wheelchair basketball 3 x 3 included in the integrated programme for the first time, alongside para athletics, para swimming, para cycling track, para table tennis, para triathlon, para lawn bowls and para powerlifting.

Para athletics events like the 100m T33/34 and para swimming events like the 100m breaststroke SB6 are added for the first time, giving some of Britain's best known para sport stars, such as Hannah Cockcroft, Kare Adenegan, Maisie Summers-Newton and Ellie Simmonds, the chance to compete at a Commonwealth Games for the first time in their careers.

Para athlete Hannah Cockcroft MBE, who has five Paralympic golds and 12 World Championship golds, said: "When I heard that there was going to be an event that I can target at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games I honestly nearly cried. This is such amazing news as I didn't think I was going to get this opportunity in my career and it has been the medal missing from my collection for all of these years. To have the opportunity to go for gold on home soil, and to compete in a Games that will be awarding more medals to women and with the biggest ever para sport programme in history, makes this even more exciting."

England and Warwickshire cricketer Amy Jones is aiming to compete for Team England in T20 Cricket at Birmingham 2022. She said:

"It's absolutely brilliant that women's cricket is taking centre stage at my home Games, and I can't wait to compete for gold at the world-famous Edgbaston Stadium, which also happens to be my home ground.

"I'm proud that Birmingham 2022 is giving women's sport such a huge platform, and I have no doubt that it will inspire young girls in the West Midlands and around the world to follow in our footsteps."

The Birmingham 2022 medals milestone is being marked today (Wednesday 21 October) with a day of special talks entitled "It's Our Time", broadcast on the Birmingham 2022 Facebook and LinkedIn pages, and featuring past, present and future stars of British sport.

Hosted by Olympic 400m medallist Katharine Merry, the event brings together several generations of female athletes, including: multi-event pioneer Lady Mary Peters, who won Commonwealth pentathlon gold in 1970 and Olympic gold in 1972; five-time Paralympic sprint champion Hannah Cockcroft; and triple jumper Ashia Hansen, who won Commonwealth gold in 1998 when women's triple jump was first added to the programme.

Across the day, they will discuss the role of women's sport in striving for equality, what Birmingham 2022 is doing to advance the profile of women's and para sport, and what still needs to be done to ensure equal representation in the industry.

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Ian Reid, CEO of Birmingham 2022, said: “Our event programme has been specifically designed to reach new audiences and champion the growth of women’s sport. I am certain that fans will come in their droves to cheer on the most diverse range of events ever held at a Commonwealth Games, showcasing more female and para athletes than ever before.

“With this programme, we are seizing the opportunity to raise the profile of the Games and the West Midlands and celebrate the diversity that the region and the Commonwealth Games movement is known for.”

Dame Louise Martin, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, said: “It is very special that the Commonwealth Games will be the first major multi-sport event in history with more medals for women than men.

“It will also be the largest ever integrated para sport programme which will ensure that Birmingham 2022 will be a truly historic, inclusive and unforgettable 11 days of sport.

“We remain on track to host one of the world’s greatest sporting competitions and deliver a Games that will leave a lasting legacy for Birmingham, the West Midlands, the country and the Commonwealth.”

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: “Birmingham 2022 offers a unique opportunity to profile women’s and para sport as never before. I am very proud that the UK is hosting the first multi-sport event with more medal opportunities for women than for men and Birmingham 2022 will help build on the great progress made in both women’s sport and para sport in recent years.”

Team England Chef De Mission, Mark England OBE, said: “We’re delighted to see the medal event programme unveiled today, a really exciting moment for athletes and teams. Confirmation that there will be more medals available for women alongside the biggest para athlete programme seen at a Commonwealth Games is fantastic news. We’re confident that we have strength in depth across the event programme allowing more Team England athletes to experience an opportunity of a lifetime and to realise their dreams.”

Cllr Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: “Knowing that Birmingham 2022 will be breaking new ground for both women’s and para sport is a source of immense pride. Too often the world of sport is a long way away from parity of esteem, so milestones like this are hugely important.

“The event programme confirms that the significance of the 11 days of sport will transcend who wins in each sport and which nation tops the medals table.

“Our programme brings an unprecedented prominence to sport for groups that have been historically under-represented at major multi-sport events – setting a standard for other Host

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Cities to follow, making the Games more relevant than ever before for spectators, also acting as an inspiration for future generations to take part and get involved.”

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For more information please contact:

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Notes to editors:

- The medal event programme is correct as of October 2020 but is subject to change
- The daily schedule for Birmingham 2022, outlining which sports will be held on each of the 11 days of competition, was revealed last week and is available to view at www.birmingham2022.com

About the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held from 28 July until 8 August 2022, will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to put the city, the region and its people on the global stage.

It will be the largest sports event to be held in the UK since the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games and the biggest event the West Midlands has ever staged.

The Games is a catalyst for transformation across the West Midlands, attracting new investment and funding, creating jobs and apprenticeships for local people and new opportunities for local businesses, as well as accelerating projects that will ensure the region is ready to host a fantastic sports and cultural celebration.

Birmingham 2022 will be the Games for everyone, bringing people together from across Birmingham and the region, to provide a warm welcome to millions of visitors during the summer of 2022. Find out more at www.birmingham2022.com

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